1841
Election TORONTO
Esp.

Front-Street, 18th January, 1841.

Sir:

Having felt it my duty to retire from contesting the Representation of the City, I send you a copy of my Address on the occasion.

It is however hoped that the Electors inclined to support the Government will keep themselves in reserve, as it is in contemplation to solicit another Gentleman to come forward with Mr. Dunn on the Administration interest, to contest the Election with the opposition Candidates.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT BALDWIN.

Dup

TO THE

ELECTORS of the CITY of TORONTO.

GENTLEMEN:—Several months have now elapsed since I announced myself as a Candidate for your suffrages to represent this City in the Provincial Parliament. I believed then, as I do now, that a majority of you approve in reality, of my political principles, and would desire to see me returned as your Representative. If personal observation, and the result of a pretty accurate canvass can be depended upon, there is no room to doubt this being the case. But the events of the present week have sufficiently demonstrated, that in this City, corruption and intimidation are at present paramount. We have a Corporation so universally condemned, that you can scarcely find a person of weight or property, who pretends to have confidence in them; and yet, that very Corporation has, at the late Municipal Elections, succeeded, with three exceptions, in returning their candidates for every Ward in the City,—and that too without reference to the politics of the respective Candidates, as was fully exemplified in St. George's Ward, where Mr STANTON, an old inhabitant of the City, of unimpeachable private character, of experience as a Magistrate, and of well known Conservative principles, was defeated,—and by whom?—by Mr GEORGE GURNETT. After such an indication of the power of the Corporation, and of the unscrupulous exercise of that power, it would not become me, against whom in particular, the most violent personal as well as political opposition has been directed by the Corporation generally, and all within the sphere of its influence, to expose so many of my friends to the oppressions which would be sure to be practised upon all in any way exposed to them, who might come forward to redeem their pledges by recording their votes in my favour. I, therefore, feel it a duty to announce to you that I am no longer a Candidate for the Representation of the City.

Having done this, it is due to my political friends not to omit the opportunity of reiterating my conviction that the great principle of Responsible Government as we have always claimed it, not as our opponents through ignorance or design have absurdly misrepresented us as claiming it, is effectually conceded; and that it remains only for the people themselves to convert it into an element of political regeneration. It is of the essence of this principle that those should be employed by the Crown to assist in the administration of the Government who enjoy the confidence of the people. The first indication of that confidence must necessarily proceed from the people themselves at the Polls, as the mode provided by the Constitution for the definitive expression of that confidence is by means of Parliamentary majorities. If, therefore, the people do not give this primary indication of confidence in me by returning me to Parliament, it will, of course, be my duty to resign into the hands of the Crown an Office which the joint confidence of both Crown and people can alone enable me upon my own principles usefully to fill. It is due to the country at large, as well as to the political party to which I belong, to make this avowal, because, while I never can be an advocate for the people's selecting as their Representatives men in whose political integrity they have no confidence, it is necessary that it should be distinctly understood, that the principle for which we have been so long contending can never be practically carried into operation if the possession of office under the Crown is to be deemed in itself a disqualification for becoming a Representative of the People.

For my own part, however, I do not fear the result of the approaching Elections throughout the Province generally. Happily for the Country, and for the continuation of her connection with the Parent State, the Counties are free from the baneful influences which oppress the City, and the return of a large majority of Reformers is beyond a question. My humble services in carrying out the great principle to which I have ever devoted my political energies belong to my country. Those services, therefore, if required, I am in my present position, of course, bound to render.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

ROBERT BALDWIN.

JANUARY 16, 1841.